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EXAMINER

WONG, ALLEN C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2613

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,632

Applicant(s)

BEYERS ET AL.

Examiner

Allen Wong

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 06/09/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/1/04 have been fully read and considered but they are not persuasive.
2. Regarding lines 22-24 on page 8 and line 25 on page 9 to line 2 on page 10 of applicant's remarks about claims 1 and 7, applicant contends that the combination of Haskell and Demos would not have been workable and the combination would not have arrive at the presently disclosed invention. The examiner respectfully disagrees. In response to applicant's argument that the combination of Haskell and Demos is unworkable, the test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference; nor is it that the claimed invention must be expressly suggested in any one or all of the references. Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of the references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981).

Further, since claims 1 and 7 are amended to such an extent, the examiner has ascertained another possible combination, involving Haskell, Demos and Yim used as a whole, would have arrive to the applicant's invention, as described below in the rejection.

Although Haskell does not specifically disclose packetizing the reference frames with a base packet-identifier (PID) and the non-reference frames with an enhancement PID, to provide base and enhancement transport bitstreams, respectively. However,

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Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer video bitstream (fig.2, element c4280).

Haskell is silent about the use of PID to packetize the base layer video bitstream. However, Demos teaches the packetization of the base layer video bitstream with a PID (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell and Demos do not specifically disclose further comprising the use of an MP@ML decoder to provide an MP@ML decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders for display on standard definition television ("SDTV") systems (col.1, ln.14-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the combined teachings of Haskell and Demos for obtaining the step of extracting the and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, only packets having the base PID, to provide an MP@ML decoded

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video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer (fig.2, element c4280) and enhancement layer video bitstreams (fig.1, element c4290) and combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide a high quality bitstream (fig.2, note element c4330 combines the base and the enhancement layer bitstreams to get the high quality bitstream c4350).

Haskell is silent about the use of PIDs to packetize the base layer and the enhancement layer video bitstreams. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell and Demos does not specifically disclose the use of the MP@ML decoder, to combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders and MP@HL decoders (col.1, ln.14-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the combined teachings of Haskell and Demos for obtaining the step of extracting and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, packets having both the base PID and the enhancement PID, to

provide the base and enhancement bitstreams, and combining said bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format as well as viewing images in the high definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Moreover, all of the teachings, since Haskell, Demos and Yim pertain to the same image processing analysis and video encoding/decoding environment, thus, the combination is reasonable.

With regards to lines 9-11 on page 10 of applicant's remarks about claims 2, 3, 8 and 9, applicant mentions that Yim fails to disclose an encoder or transmitter. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Although Yim does not use the terms "encoder" and "transmitter", however, one of ordinary skill in the art would obviously acknowledge and recognize that Yim's receiver must have a transmitter or encoder to send a transmission to be received by a receiver, otherwise, Yim's receiver would be deemed as useless and obsolete. If one peruses Haskell's figure 2, one can observe that there is an encoder or transmitter and a decoder or receiver, so clearly, one can apply the teachings of Yim into Haskell and Demos. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to acknowledge that Yim has a external transmitter for transmitting encoded data to Yim's receiver for decoding data for viewing on a display or high definition or standard definition television so as to view television programming, and to conveniently view images in the high definition television and standard definition television formats at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Regarding lines 14-16 on page 10 of applicant's remarks, applicant states that the combination of Haskell, Demos and Yim would not arrive at the present invention. The examiner respectfully disagrees. It is the combination of Haskell, Demos and Yim that permits one to obtain the present invention, not separately. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the combined teachings of Haskell and Demos for obtaining the step of extracting and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, packets having both the base PID and the enhancement PID, to provide the base and enhancement bitstreams, and combining said bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format as well as viewing images in the high definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

With regards lines 4-10 on page 11 of applicant's remarks about claims 5 and 11, applicant asserts that Wilkinson does not disclose "reference frames are all consecutively numbered" and is not applicable to the amended claims. The examiner respectfully disagrees. Wilkinson's col.1, ln.39-54, discloses the display order of the frames, I0, B1, B2, P3 ..., and after the reordering or the remapping process takes place for remapping the reference frames I0, P3 into the new ordering of frames for compression with the sequence I0, P3, B1, B2 ... , where the reference frames I0 and P3 are shown to be consecutively numbered in the new ordering of frames for compression. And, element 80 is the frame reorderer that will remap or reorder the reference frames of a GOP in that all the reference frames, I and P frames, are consecutively numbered because that is the standard manner to encode and transmit

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MPEG video image data. Thus, Wilkinson is applicable to the reference frames are all consecutively ordered.

In conclusion, claims 1, 5, 7 and 11 are rejected and maintained for the reasons elaborated above and in the rejection below. Dependent claims 2-4, 6, 8-10 and 12-20 are rejected for the same reasons as explained above.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 and 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haskell (5,742,343) and Demos (5,852,565) in view of Yim (6,337,716).

Regarding claims 1-3 and 7-9, Haskell discloses an apparatus and method for encoding video signals (fig.2 and 19), comprising the steps of:

receiving a progressive video bitstream comprising reference frames and non-reference frames (in fig.2, note base encoder c4140 receive "prog" or progressive video input bitstream, and col.9, ln.24-27, note base encoder receives I and P (ie. anchor or reference frames) and B frames (ie. non-reference frames)), each having an initial temporal reference in accordance with an initial frame sequence structure (fig.11, note base layer each frame has an initial temporal reference with the group of frames structured in order IBBPBBPB... );

remapping the temporal references of the reference frames while ignoring the non-reference frames (col.9, ln.27-30, note reference frames are reorganized or temporally remapped, and col.9, ln.61-67, B-frames are ignored during the frame reorganization while I and P frames are processed first because B frames, or non-reference frames, need the I and P frames, or reference frames, since the reconstruction of the B frames at the decoding end depend on the decoding of the two reference frames, the I and P frames, in order to properly reconstruct the B-frames for viewing); and

encoding the base and enhancement layered bitstreams (fig.2, element c4140 is the base layer bitstream encoder and element c4160 is the enhancement layer bistream encoder); and

displaying on high-definition television ("HDTV") systems (col.1, ln.52-55).

Although Haskell does not specifically disclose packetizing the reference frames with a base packet-identifier (PID) and the non-reference frames with an enhancement PID, to provide base and enhancement transport bitstreams, respectively. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer video bitstream (fig.2, element c4280).

Haskell is silent about the use of PID to packetize the base layer video bitstream. However, Demos teaches the packetization of the base layer video bitstream with a PID (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell and Demos do not specifically disclose further comprising the use of an MP@ML decoder to provide an MP@ML decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders for display on standard definition television ("SDTV") systems (col.1, ln.14-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the combined teachings of Haskell and Demos for obtaining the step of extracting the and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, only packets having the base PID, to provide an MP@ML decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer (fig.2, element c4280) and enhancement layer video bitstreams (fig.1, element c4290) and combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide a high quality bitstream (fig.2, note element c4330 combines the base and the enhancement layer bitstreams to get the high quality bitstream c4350).

Haskell is silent about the use of PIDs to packetize the base layer and the enhancement layer video bitstreams. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell and Demos does not specifically disclose the use of the MP@ML decoder, to combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders and MP@HL decoders (col.1, ln.14-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the combined teachings of Haskell and Demos for obtaining the step of extracting and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, packets having both the base PID and the enhancement PID, to provide the base and enhancement bitstreams, and combining said bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format as well as viewing images in the high definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Regarding claims 4 and 10, Haskell discloses wherein said reference frames comprise I and P frames and said non-reference frames comprise B frames (col.9,

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In.34-36, note I and P frames are used as references for obtaining the B frames or the non-reference frames).

Claims 5, 11, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haskell (5,742,343) and Demos (5,852,565) in view of Wilkinson (6,125,140).

Regarding claims 5 and 11, Haskell discloses an apparatus and method for encoding video signals (fig.2 and 19), comprising the steps of:

receiving a progressive video bitstream comprising reference frames and non-reference frames (in fig.2, note base encoder c4140 receive "prog" or progressive video input bitstream, and col.9, ln.24-27, note base encoder receives I and P (ie. anchor or reference frames) and B frames (ie. non-reference frames)), each having an initial temporal reference in accordance with an initial frame sequence structure (fig.11, note base layer each frame has an initial temporal reference with the group of frames structured in order IBBPBBPB... );

remapping the temporal references of the reference frames while ignoring the non-reference frames (col.9, ln.27-30, note reference frames are reorganized or temporally remapped, and col.9, ln.61-67, B-frames are ignored during the frame reorganization while I and P frames are processed first because B frames, or non-reference frames, need the I and P frames, or reference frames, since the reconstruction of the B frames at the decoding end depend on the decoding of the two reference frames, the I and P frames, in order to properly reconstruct the B-frames for viewing); and

encoding the base and enhancement layered bitstreams (fig.2, element c4140 is the base layer bitstream encoder and element c4160 is the enhancement layer bistream encoder)

Although Haskell does not specifically disclose packetizing the reference frames with a base packet-identifier (PID) and the non-reference frames with an enhancement PID, to provide base and enhancement transport bitstreams, respectively. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell and Demos are silent about wherein step (b) comprises the step of remapping the temporal references of the reference frames so that the reference frames are consecutively numbered. However, Wilkinson teaches the step of remapping the temporal references of the reference frames so that the reference frames are consecutively numbered (col.1, ln.39-54; note I0, B1, B2, P3 ... is the display order of the frames, and after the reordering or the remapping process takes place for remapping the reference frames I0, P3 into the new ordering of frames for compression with the sequence I0, P3, B1, B2 ... , where the reference frames I0 and P3 are shown to be consecutively numbered in the new ordering of frames for compression).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate

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Wilkinson's teaching into the combination of Haskell and Demos for reordering or remapping of the reference frames so as to efficiently encode video image frames, and to meet and adhere to the MPEG video encoding standards.

Regarding claims 15 and 19, Haskell discloses wherein said reference frames comprise I and P frames and said non-reference frames comprise B frames (col.9, ln.34-36, note I and P frames are used as references for obtaining the B frames or the non-reference frames).

Claims 13-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haskell (5,742,343) and Demos (5,852,565) and Wilkinson (6,125,140) in view of Yim (6,337,716).

Regarding claims 13 and 17, Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer video bitstream (fig.2, element c4280).

Haskell is silent about the use of PID to packetize the base layer video bitstream. However, Demos teaches the packetization of the base layer video bitstream with a PID (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson do not specifically disclose further comprising the use of an MP@ML decoder to provide an MP@ML decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders (col.1, ln.14-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into

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the combined teachings of Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson for obtaining the step of extracting the and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, only packets having the base PID, to provide an MP@ML decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, ln.63-67).

Regarding claims 14 and 18, Haskell discloses further comprising the step of extracting and decoding the base layer (fig.2, element c4280) and enhancement layer video bitstreams (fig.1, element c4290) and combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide a high quality bitstream (fig.2, note element c4330 combines the base and the enhancement layer bitstreams to get the high quality bitstream c4350).

Haskell is silent about the use of PIDs to packetize the base layer and the enhancement layer video bitstreams. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, ln.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, ln.66 to col.2, ln.7).

Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson do not specifically disclose the use of the MP@ML decoder, to combining the base and enhancement bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream. However, Yim teaches the use of MP@ML decoders and MP@HL decoders (col.1, ln.14-26). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Yim into the

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combined teachings of Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson for obtaining the step of extracting and decoding, with an MP@ML decoder, packets having both the base PID and the enhancement PID, to provide the base and enhancement bitstreams, and combining said bitstreams to provide an MP@HL decoded video bitstream, so as to conveniently view images in the standard definition television format as well as viewing images in the high definition television format at different rates (Yim col.1, In.63-67).

Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haskell (5,742,343) in view of Demos (5,852,565) as applied to claims 1 and 7 above, and further in view of Michener (6,323,909).

Regarding claims 6 and 12, Haskell discloses the encoding of the base and enhancement layered bitstreams (fig.2, element c4140 is the base layer bitstream encoder and element c4160 is the enhancement layer bitstream encoder).

Haskell is silent about the use of PIDs to packetize the base layer and the enhancement layer video bitstreams. However, Demos teaches the packetization of two MPEG-2 PIDs, where one PID contains the base layer transport bitstream and the other PID contains the enhancement layer transport bitstream (col.9, In.31-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Demos's teaching into the method and apparatus of Haskell for encoding in an efficient manner to produce high quality images for display in television transmissions and broadcasting (Demos col.1, In.66 to col.2, In.7).

Haskell and Demos do not specifically disclose wherein each PID is a service channel identifier (SCID). However, Michener teaches that a PID is a service channel

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identifier (col.1, ln.53-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Michener's teaching into the combination of Haskell and Demos for efficiently encoding and transmitting standard and high definition programming using digital satellite system and MPEG-2 so as to reduce massive infrastructure and complexity, and to reduce costs (col.1, ln.62-64 and col.2, ln.24-26).

Claims 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Haskell (5,742,343), Demos (5,852,565), Wilkinson (6,125,140) and further in view of Michener (6,323,909).

Regarding claims 16 and 20, Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson do not specifically disclose wherein each PID is a service channel identifier (SCID). However, Michener teaches that a PID is a service channel identifier (col.1, ln.53-55). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Michener's teaching into the combination of Haskell, Demos and Wilkinson for efficiently encoding and transmitting standard and high definition programming using digital satellite system and MPEG-2 so as to reduce massive infrastructure and complexity, and to reduce costs (col.1, ln.62-64 and col.2, ln.24-26).

### ***Conclusion***

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

***Contact Information***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Allen Wong whose telephone number is (703) 306-5978. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays to Thursdays from 8am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on (703) 305-4856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Allen Wong  
Examiner  
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9/23/04



CHRIS KELLEY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600